



National Commission on the Future of the Army

2530 Crystal Drive, Zachary Taylor Building, Suite 5000
Arlington, VA 22202

SUBJECT: Operational Subcommittee for the National Commission on the Future of the Army (NCFA) Classified Meeting Minutes - 17 AUG 15

Date: 17 August 2015

Time: 0800 - 1300

Location: Taylor Building, Washington, DC

Format: Classified and unclassified briefings

Attendees:

HON Dr. Kathleen Hicks – Operational Subcommittee Chair
GEN (Ret) Carter Ham – Commissioner
LTG (R) Jack Stultz – Commissioner
SMA (R) Raymond Chandler – Commissioner
MAJ Vinson Morris – Subcommittee Designated Federal Officer (DFO)
Mr. Kerry Schindler – NCFA Staff
Mr. Scott Sharp – NCFA Staff
Mr. Jason Southerland- NCFA Analyst
Mr. Chris Reddish, Forces Command
Mr. Mark Berglund, National Guard Bureau

Documents Submitted to Commission:

1. Forces Command Multi Component Unit (MCU) Briefing Slides 17Aug 15
2. OFSC August Overview 121530August15

Meeting Summary

The meeting started at 0802 hours with opening remarks from the DFO addressing the application of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). The meeting followed the agenda provided by the NCFA staff.

The NCFA staff updated the Subcommittee on engagements conducted over the previous month involving the Defense Attaché for Estonia, National Security Council Staff, and a panel of Army senior officers. The NCFA staff summarized the information gathered as shown in minutes from those engagements. The Army senior officer panel included both classified and unclassified information.

The Subcommittee members and NCFA staff updated the group on site visits to Europe, Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana, West Virginia, and Mississippi. Information provided came from

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the minutes for these engagements/site visits and can be found at the NCFA public website (www.ncfa.ncr.gov).

The Subcommittee then discussed planned engagements in August and September 2015 with defense attachés from Australia, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, France, and Poland.

The need for text describing the future operational environment was the next discussion topic. Today, some countries and non-state actors challenge America's national security interests and security commitments to its allies and partners around the world. Potential challengers—from individuals to criminal and terrorist networks to authoritarian states—may become a greater and more direct threat to our nation due to ubiquitous communications, the diffusion of militarily-relevant technology, as well as weak or failed governance and security systems at the international, state, and sub-state levels.

The Subcommittee discussed the path to produce a Future Operational Environment information paper. The paper will address threats and the resulting impacts on what Army forces must do in the future. The paper will become part of the underlying rationale and provide context for recommendations on priorities in the final Commission report.

At 0900 hours, Mr. Reddish and Mr. Berglund briefed an ongoing multi-component unit (MCU) initiative. The Chief of Staff Army (CSA) directed the creation of multi-component units for Corps and Division as a result of the 2012 Defense Planning Guidance. The MCU initiative intent was to find ways to reduce Active Component (AC) end strength without reducing quantity or quality of capabilities, while ensuring interoperability between AC and Reserve Component (RC).

The current fiscal constraints and required downsizing of the Corps and Divisions created operational gaps in these headquarters that adversely impact mission command. To help mitigate the operational gaps, the Army initiated Corps and Divisions MCU to support national and geographic combatant command requirements. These MCUs are planned no earlier than FY16 and no later than FY 19. The discussion developed from the slides focused on identifying implementation actions and friction points for the pilot efforts underway with the 101st Airborne Division. How to synchronize RC unit readiness cycles with AC readiness cycles was a key discussion point.

Mr. Reddish and Mr. Berglund departed at 1005 hours. The Subcommittee then discussed the unique Center for Army Analysis modeling activities initiated to support the Commission. The key variables within the analysis include demand scenarios, supply and types of forces, policy constraints, and substitution of one type of formation for another. This discussion addressed

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multiple classified items, such as existing war plans, strategic lift, defense planning scenarios, and unit readiness relative to time of need.

The meeting concluded at 1155 hours.